

# NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

## Supervisor's Meeting

November 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, held at 233 Miller Road, was called to order by Chairman Martin Bonzo at 6:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Chairman Doug Martin, Supervisors Mike Phipps, Fritz Retsch, and Steve Spade.

Also, present were Manager Ronald Leindecker, Treasurer Nicole Liston, Secretary Lawrie Borgman, Police Chief Gregory Carney, Road Foreman R.J. Kraus, Township Engineer Kevin Brett, Township Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Albert Horn, David Bauman, Jim Hendrickson, Patti Gerhard, Larry Hough, Amanda Peterson, Dan Swartz, Steve Joy, Brett Schultz, Brenda Sebring, Craig Liston, Duane Rape, and Laura Dengel

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|----|---|---|
| 1  | <b>PLEDGE</b>                               | The Pledge was recited.   |
| 2  | <b>INVOCATION</b>                           | Pastor Stephen Slepecki, Oak Grove Lutheran Church gave the invocation.   |
| 3  | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>                        | Chairman Bonzo called the meeting to order and announced the presence of security cameras. Executive sessions were held on October 15 <sup>th</sup> for personnel matters and before and after the October 29 <sup>th</sup> agenda meeting for legal matters.   |
| 4  | <b>AMENDMENT TO AGENDA</b>                  | None.   |
| 5  | <b>MINUTES</b>                              | Motion by Martin to approve the October 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.   |
| 6  | <b>BILLS</b>                                | <p>Prior to a motion, Vice-Chairman Martin questioned the purchases under the STMP program and if they required a bid process and approval from the Board of Supervisors. Manager Leindecker explained the purchases were discussed in 2023 workshops and submission of the grant was approved by resolution. Solicitor Wheeler confirmed the items purchased fell below the threshold required to bid or are professional services, which do not require bidding. Chairman Bonzo asked the Manager to bring details of future STMP program grant submissions to the supervisors before sending.</p> <p>Motion by Phipps to approve the bills to be paid from the general and stormwater accounts as submitted, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.</p> |
| 7a | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT<br/>LARRY HOUGH</b>       | Requested an update on the ongoing tonal noise issue and expressed concern over the board not taking further action.  |
| 7b | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON MS4</b>                | None.   |
| 8a | <b>TREASURER REPORT</b>                     | The Treasurer's report was submitted.   |
| 8b | <b>FIRST READING OF THE 2025<br/>BUDGET</b> | Manager Leindecker reviewed the proposed 2025 Budget and capital account.   |

- 8c ADVERTISE CPA TO COMPLETE 2024 AUDIT** Supervisor Spade asked for clarification on which audit was paid for last month. Manager Leindecker stated it was the 2023 audit.
- Motion by Martin to approve advertising that a CPA will complete the 2024 audit, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8 d, e, f APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR LSA GRANTS WITH NO MATCH FOR:  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT, PAVING ROTHART DRIVE AND DRUSCHEL ROAD, PAVING HARKINS MILL ROAD** Motion by Martin to combine agenda items 8d, 8e, and 8f in an omnibus motion, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- Supervisor Retsch asked for clarification on where the funds for LSA grants come from.
- Motion by Martin to approve the omnibus motion to apply for LSA grants with no matching funds for the municipal building roof replacement, paving Rothart Drive and Druschel Road, and Harkins Mill Road, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 8g WORKSHOP REQUEST** A workshop was requested for November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss safety and communication, Big Knob Fire Department's stormwater issue, and baseball requested time to discuss improvements. Vice-Chairman Martin requested that the purchasing policy be added to the discussion. Steve Joy requested the fire department talk occur at the beginning of the workshop.
- 8h ACCEPT DONATION AND MOU FROM ALIVER FOUNDATION FOR ONE AED FOR GVP** Vice-Chairman Martin asked Dave Bauman if the Recreation Board was in favor of the AED installation at the park. He confirmed they were.
- Motion by Retsch to accept the donation and MOU from the Aliver Foundation for one AED to be installed at Green Valley Park, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 9a POLICE MONTHLY REPORT** The monthly report was submitted.
- 9b POLICE APPROVE ETHAN FUCHS FOR THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT** Motion by Martin to approve Ethan Fuchs for the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 9c POLICE CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ONE FULL-TIME OFFICER** Motion by Martin to give a conditional offer of employment for one full-time officer, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 9d POLICE APPROVE POLICE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MARION TOWNSHIP** Motion by Martin to approve the Police Service Agreement with Marion Township, seconded by Spade. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 9e BIG KNOB AND PINE RUN FIRE DEPARTMENTS** The monthly reports were submitted.

Jim Hendrickson submitted and reviewed the monthly reports for Pine Run. He stated in the past year 50% of the calls have been QRS-related. The merger continues to move forward. Chairman Bonzo extended his appreciation for all of their efforts.

Steve Joy submitted the Big Knob report. The Fire District will hold the nomination of new officers for the combined department.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked Mr. Joy to describe the proposed plan the fire district discussed at a recent workshop meeting. The fire department would like to bring on a paid part-time staff to cover the shifts when the volunteers are not typically available to answer calls. He asked that the supervisors continue the discussion in the future.

Chairman Bonzo asked that something be put on the website regarding burning during the drought.

**10 ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The monthly report was submitted.

The Road Department worked with Bill Steel on the cemetery project. Chairman Bonzo thanked them for their hard work.

**11a ENGINEER  
MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report was submitted. Supervisor Spade asked Kevin Brett for clarification on the monthly report.

Supervisor Phipps asked Manager Leindecker and Foreman Kraus to explain the septic situation at the township buildings. Mr. Brett explained the topographic survey is a necessary step to get design options for a new system. Supervisor Spade asked if the report would include fixing the existing system without additional load. Vice-Chairman Martin stated the township should try for a grant for the project.

**11b ENGINEERING  
APPROVE LSSE TO PERFORM  
PUBLIC WORKS INTERIOR  
RENOVATIONS TOPOGRAPHIC  
SURVEY**

Motion by Phipps to approve LSSE to perform a topographic survey for the public works interior renovations for \$6,500, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Martin voted no.

**11c ENGINEERING  
APPROVE LSSE TO PERFORM  
PUBLIC WORKS INTERIOR  
RENOVATIONS CONCEPTUAL  
DESIGN FOR A SEWER SYSTEM**

Motion by Phipps to approve LSSE to perform a conceptual design for the sewer system as part of the public works interior renovation for \$5,000, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 3-0 in favor. Spade and Martin voted no.

**11d ENGINEERING  
APPROVE LSSE TO PERFORM  
PUBLIC WORKS INTERIOR  
RENOVATIONS PREPARATION  
OF BID DOCUMENTS**

Chairman Bonzo stated they received a quote from LSSE to prepare a bid package to perform public works interior renovations preparation of bid documents for a concrete floor \$140,000, an HVAC system \$125,000, and electrical excluding office and restroom areas \$175,000. The bid package would be \$35,000.

Vice-Chairman Martin moved to table the item. The supervisors agreed.

- 11e ENGINEERING**  
**APPROVE LSSE TO PREPARE**  
**STORMWATER DESIGN FOR**  
**NOONEN STREET**
- Vice-Chairman Martin asked the solicitor about preparing a letter to PennDOT asking for funding for the project. Solicitor Wheeler stated she would help write the letter or look over it, but feels it should come from the township. Supervisor Phipps stated they should complete the project and ask PennDOT for reimbursement. Supervisor Retsch asked for confirmation that the funds were available.
- Motion by Phipps to approve LSSE to prepare a stormwater design for Noonan Street for \$19,500 to be taken from the MS4 funds, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 3-0 in favor. Spade and Martin voted no.
- 12 SOLICITOR**
- Solicitor Wheeler provided the supervisors with her monthly report.
- 13a PLANNING**
- Al Horn stated the Planning Commission is winding down its year.
- 13b PLANNING**  
**APPROVE TOOCH PLAN OF**  
**LOTS #2 LOT LINE REVISION**  
**WITH CONDITIONS**
- Motion by Martin to approve the Tooch Plan of Lots #2 Lot Line Revision with the conditions noted in the memo from the Planning Commission dated October 21<sup>st</sup> and the LSSE review letter dated October 25<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor.
- 13c PLANNING**  
**APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR**  
**FINAL APPROVAL OF**  
**MEADOWCREST, LP PLANNED**  
**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**AND FINAL APPROVAL OF**  
**PHASE I SUBDIVISION WITH**  
**CONDITIONS AND**  
**MODIFICATIONS**
- Vice-Chairman Martin asked the Planning Commission, Solicitor Wheeler, and the Township Manager if they had any objections to the plan. All stated they did not.
- Motion by Phipps to grant final approval of the Meadowcrest Planned Residential Development with the conditions and modifications as set forth in the November 4, 2024 letter from the solicitor and to grant final approval of the Phase I subdivision of Meadowcrest, LP, seconded by Retsch. Vote of 4-0 in favor. Spade voted no.
- 13d MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**
- Larry Hough gave an update on the waterline extension. They are continuing to apply for grants to continue the extension project.
- Chairman Bonzo thanked the Municipal Authority for their efforts.
- 13e RECREATION BOARD**
- The monthly report was submitted. Chairman Bonzo extended his appreciation for the work the Recreation Board does for the community.
- 13f BUILDING/CODE/SEO/ZONING**  
**MONTHLY REPORTS**
- The building report was submitted.
- 13g ZONING HEARING**
- A Zoning Hearing was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> for State Farm at 1270 Freedom Crider Rd asking for a sign variance. The variance was granted.

**14 BOARD COMMENTS**

Supervisor Retsch thanked Larry Hough and the Municipal Authority for their efforts to get water to the township and the police and poll workers for their work at the election sites. Supervisor Retsch also thanked Manager Leindecker because of his persistence with Duquesne Light street lights were placed on Rochester Road, 989 and Klein Rd, and at Route 68 and Glen Eden intersections.

Supervisor Phipps asked what the meeting with PennDOT was regarding. It is regarding safety at the Route 68 and Glen Eden intersection.

Chairman Bonzo thanked Penn Energy for the use of water for the fire department during a significant fire call in the township.

**14 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Martin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phipps. Vote of 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lawrie J. Borgman  
Secretary